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File No. 20118/0200853-US0

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Peter Ohnemus et al.

Application No.: 10/708,441 Art Unit: 3623

Filed: March 3, 2004 Examiner: Heck, Michael C.

For: SUSTAINABILITY RATINGS AND BENCHMARKING FOR LEGAL ENTITIES

DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF PATENTABILITY

MS Petition
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I, Lloyd A. Groveman, declare:

1. I am over 21 years of age.

2. I have been involved in the securities industry for over fifteen years with extensive risk management experience. I am a co-founder and a Managing Partner of NIR Capital Management, LLC, an asset management firm with $1.5 billion of assets under management. I was most recently before that a Managing Director of The NIR Group, LLC. Prior to that, I managed a derivatives consulting practice as well as an asset management firm that was originally founded while employed at Banc of America Securities LLC. In a more previous position, I was co-head of the equity derivatives effort at Lehman Brothers focusing on high net-worth individuals and non-tier one institutional accounts and was the chairman of the global risk management committee for the private client services division. I was also Lehman Brothers' senior registered

options principal (SROP). I was also a member of the derivatives group and risk committee at Morgan Stanley. I graduated from Polytechnic University with Honors with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and graduated from Columbia University School of Business with Honors with a Major in Finance.

3. I have personally been involved in applications for utility patents before the United States Patent and Trademark Office and have read patents and applications on many occasions.

4. I am familiar with invention disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/708,441, for "Sustainability Ratings and Benchmarking for Legal Entities," filed on March 3, 2004, now published as (the "Patent Application;" attached at **Tab A**), and with the claims that I understand are presently pending (copy attached at **Tab B**). I am familiar with the Official Action that asserts that the claims of the Patent Application do not recite a methodology that provides a tangible, useful, and concrete result.

5. The methodology disclosed and claimed in the Patent Application most assuredly provides a tangible, useful, and concrete result.

6. The sustainability score is a tangible result that can be relied upon and utilized by people, such as myself, in the financial industry to analyze and compare the investment viability of companies using more than mere financial data. Moreover, the sustainability score provides a metric that utilizes non-economic data, such as data regarding a company's social responsibility, environmental responsibility, and corporate governance. Furthermore, the ability to enter coefficients, thereby weighting factors according to predetermined or user-defined performance models, enables a user to imprint his/her own world view on the computed sustainability scores.

7. The claimed invention provides a useful result in that it allows a user to rate one or more companies based, at least in part, on non-economic factors that are transformed into a sustainability score. Furthermore, the invention recited in the claims allows the user to customize the computation of the sustainability score by weighting the factors in accordance with predetermined or user-defined performance models.

8. The sustainability score generated by the claimed invention is a concrete, predictable, and reproducible result. By way of example, for a given set of coefficients representing a

particular financial model, two companies with identical non-economic data will result in the computation of the identical sustainability score. In this manner, a user can analyze the sustainability rating of one or more companies with complete assurance that the performance model defined by the specified set of coefficients is repeatably and reliably applied to the economic and non-economic data of each respective company.

9. On information and belief, a useful tool results from the implementation of the claimed methodology that can assist in analyzing a company and in making investment decisions.

10. I do not know the individuals named on the Patent Application and was not compensated in any way in connection with making this declaration.

I declare further that statements made in this declaration of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing therefrom.

SIGNED: Lloyd A

NAME: Lloyd A. Groveman

DATE: 8-21-06

CLAIMS

1. In a computer-implemented rating system having access to a database populated with data concerning at least one non-economic factor, a method comprising:

providing an interface capable of displaying at least a portion of the data;

enabling a user to input at least one coefficient value through the interface;

computing a sustainability score using at least one of the inputted coefficient values and the data, the sustainability score utilizing the at least one non-economic factor in a formula;

permitting the user to view the formula through the interface; and

outputting the sustainability score.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

storing the user-input coefficient value in an account associated with the user.

3. In a computer-implemented rating system having access to a database populated with data concerning at least one non-economic factor for multiple companies, each company belonging to an industry, a method comprising:

providing an interface capable of displaying at least a portion of the data and enabling the user to select one of the companies and one of the industries;

permitting a user to input at least one coefficient values through the interface;

computing a sustainability score using at least one of the inputted coefficient values and the data concerning the selected one of the companies, the sustainability score utilizing the at least one non-economic factor in a formula that is viewable by the user through the interface; and

outputting the sustainability score.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein

the sustainability score for an industry is computed from data concerning non-economic factors of companies in the industry.

5. The method of claim 3, further comprising

presenting the formula to the user through the interface.

6. The method of claim 3, further comprising:

subsequently receiving later data concerning at least one non-economic factor for a company; and

computing a subsequent sustainability score for the company using the later data.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:

waiting to receive a verification flag respecting the later data prior to computing the subsequent sustainability score.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein

the later data is received from at least one of the public and the company.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein the data concerns non-economic factors for multiple companies, the method further comprising:

defining a derivative index product comprising a selection of companies among the multiple companies,

pricing the derivative product; and

offering the derivative product for purchase and sale in a public market.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein

the later data is received as a response to a questionnaire.

11. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

establishing a secure entity reporting channel, and

wherein the later data is received over the channel.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein

the sustainability score includes a plurality of individual scores corresponding to discrete sustainability criteria.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein

the coefficient value is used to compute at least one of the individual scores.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein

the sustainability score is computed by combining at least two of the individual scores, and

the coefficient value is used to affect how the individual scores are combined.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein

the discrete sustainability criteria include at least one of a social responsibility rating, an environmental responsibility rating, and a corporate governance rating.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein

the discrete sustainability criteria further include an economic rating.

17. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

benchmarking the sustainability score against a reference score.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein

the data concerns non-economic factors for multiple governments,

the interface further enables the user to select one of the governments, and

computing uses the data concerning the selected one of the governments.

19. A computer for implementing a rating system, the computer having access to a database populated with data concerning at least one non-economic factor, the computer comprising:

means for displaying at least a portion of the data and a formula that generates a sustainability score;

means for enabling a user to input at least one coefficient value; and

a processor configured to compute the sustainability score using the formula provided with at least one of the inputted coefficient values and the data,

wherein the displaying means outputs the sustainability score.

20. The computer of claim 19, further comprising:

means for storing the user-input coefficient value in an account associated with the user.

21. A computer for implementing a rating system, the computer having access to a database populated with data concerning at least one non-economic factor for multiple companies, each company belonging to an industry, the computer comprising:

means for displaying at least a portion of the data and a formula that generates a sustainability score;

means for enabling a user to input at least one coefficient value;

the means for enabling the user further enables the user to select one of the companies and one of the industries, and

a processor configured to compute the sustainability score using the data concerning the selected one of the companies the formula provided with at least one of the inputted coefficient values and the data;

wherein the displaying means outputs the sustainability score.

22. The computer of claim 21, wherein

the sustainability score for an industry is computed from data concerning non-economic factors of companies in the industry.

23 The computer of claim 21, wherein

a plurality of sustainability scores for respective companies is computed and compared.

24. The computer of claim 21, further comprising:

means for subsequently receiving later data concerning at least one non-economic factor for a company; and

means for computing a subsequent sustainability score for the company using the later data.

25. The computer of claim 24, further comprising:

means for waiting to receive a verification flag respecting the later data prior to computing the subsequent sustainability score.

26. The computer of claim 24, wherein

the later data is received from the public.

27. The computer of claim 24, wherein

the later data is received from the company.

28. The computer of claim 24, wherein

the later data is received as a response to a questionnaire.

29. The computer of claim 24, further comprising:

means for establishing a secure entity reporting channel, and

wherein the later data is received over the channel.

30. The computer of claim 19, wherein

the sustainability score includes a plurality of individual scores corresponding to discrete sustainability criteria.

31. The computer of claim 30, wherein

the coefficient value is used to compute at least one of the individual scores.

32. The computer of claim 30, wherein

the sustainability score is computed by combining at least two of the individual scores, and

the coefficient value is used to affect how the individual scores are combined.

33. The computer of claim 30, wherein

the discrete sustainability criteria include at least one of a social responsibility rating, an environmental responsibility rating, and a corporate governance rating.

34. The computer of claim 33, wherein

the discrete sustainability criteria further include an economic rating.

35. The computer of claim 19, further comprising:

means for benchmarking the sustainability score against a reference score.

36. The computer of claim 19, wherein

the data concerns non-economic factors for multiple governments,

the interface further enables the user to select one of the governments, and

the means for computing is adapted to use the data concerning the selected one of the governments.

37. A computer for implementing a rating system, the computer having access to a database populated with data concerning at least one non-economic factor, the computer comprising:

an interface configured to display at least a portion of the data, to enable input of at least one coefficient value, and to display a formula useful in computing a sustainability score; and

a processor configured to compute the sustainability score using the formula in conjunction with any input coefficient values and the data,

wherein the interface is further capable of outputting the sustainability score.

38. The computer of claim 37, further comprising:

a memory for storing the input coefficient values in an account associated with the user.

39. A computer for implementing a rating system, the computer having access to a database populated with data concerning at least one non-economic factor for multiple companies, each company belonging to an industry, the computer comprising:

an interface configured to display at least a portion of the data, to enable input of at least one coefficient value and to enable the user to select one of the companies and one of the industries, and to display a formula useful in computing a sustainability score; and

a processor configured to compute the sustainability score using the formula in conjunction with any input coefficient values and the data concerning the selected one of the companies;

wherein the interface is further capable of outputting the sustainability score.

40. The computer of claim 39, wherein

the sustainability score for an industry is computed from data concerning non-economic factors of companies in the industry.

41. The computer of claim 39, wherein

a plurality of sustainability scores for respective companies is computed and compared.

42. The computer of claim 39, wherein

the interface is capable of receiving later data concerning at least one non-economic factor for a company; and

the processor is adapted to further compute a subsequent sustainability score for the company using the later data.

43. The computer of claim 42, wherein

the processor is adapted to further wait to receive a verification flag respecting the later data prior to computing the subsequent sustainability score.

44. The computer of claim 42, wherein

the later data is received from the public.

45. The computer of claim 42, wherein

the later data is received from the company.

46. The computer of claim 45, wherein

the later data is received as a response to a questionnaire.

47. The computer of claim 45, wherein

the interface is adapted to further establish a secure entity reporting channel, and

the later data is received over the channel.

48. The computer of claim 37, wherein

the sustainability score includes a plurality of individual scores corresponding to discrete sustainability criteria.

49. The computer of claim 48, wherein

the coefficient value is used to compute at least one of the individual scores.

50. The computer of claim 48, wherein

the sustainability score is computed by combining at least two of the individual scores, and

the coefficient value is used to affect how the individual scores are combined.

51. The computer of claim 48, wherein

the discrete sustainability criteria include at least one of a social responsibility rating, an environmental responsibility rating, and a corporate governance rating.

52. The computer of claim 51, wherein

the discrete sustainability criteria further include an economic rating.

53. The computer of claim 37, further comprising:

the processor is adapted to further benchmark the sustainability score against a reference score.

54. The computer of claim 37, wherein
the data concerns non-economic factors for multiple governments,
the interface further enables the user to select one of the governments, and
computing uses the data concerning the selected one of the governments.

55. (Cancelled)

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File No. 20118/0200853-US0

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Peter Ohnemus et al.

Application No.: 10/708,441 Art Unit: 3623

Filed: March 3, 2004 Examiner: Heck, Michael C.

For: SUSTAINABILITY RATINGS AND BENCHMARKING FOR LEGAL ENTITIES

DECLARATION OF PETER OHNEMUS

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I, Peter Ohnemus, declare:

1. I am over 21 years of age and am the inventor of the subject matter disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/708,441, for "Sustainability Ratings and Benchmarking for Legal Entities," filed on March 3, 2004, now published as (the "Patent Application;" attached at **Tab A**), having claims as shown in **Tab B** (the "Pending Claims).

2. I graduated from IMD Lausanne, a premiere business school in Europe, where I studied mergers and acquisitions. I have developed more than 200 software projects for the capital market including the Swiss Electronic Stock Exchange, a risk management system for Frankfurter Börse, a worldwide currency trading system for UBS, and the worldwide key client asset management for Credit Suisse. I was the co-founder and CEO of The Fantastic Corporation, and successfully guided the company to its initial public offering in less than four years. I have also held executive positions with Sybase, Logic Works, and COS, all of which held their initial public offerings during my tenure. I was named

the "Entrepreneur of the Year 1999" in Switzerland, and I am a frequent commentator in the trade and business press, as well as on television. I am also the co-author of the book "Marketing Strategies for the New Economy," published by J. Wiley & Sons. I have been an active venture capitalist through The e-Firm from 2001 to 2004. I am also the co-founder, CEO and president of ASSET4 (the assignee of this patent application), and I serve on the board of directors of Rothschild Bank, SQL AG, and Visonys.

3. Each of the Pending Claims provides a particular score that is derived using non-economic data. The score represents a performance predictor in a manner similar to other financial data such as a price/earnings/growth ratio, except with the important distinction that this performance predictor can be used in evaluating performance in economic and in non-economic categories. Non-economic categories can include, for example, environmental responsibility, corporate governance, and social responsibility. This particular score is suitable for reference or reliance by persons in the financial industry because it provides a point of reference or comparison that extends beyond mere financial data.

4. The usefulness of invention defined in the Pending Claims can be illustrated by way of the following example. Many companies have been criticized for various labor practices including child labor, union-related policies, substandard wages, and inadequate employee benefits (e.g., healthcare). These factors can be further categorized. For example, with respect to child labor practices, such non-economic data can include various factors such as the age of workers, pay, the number of continuous hours worked, and the conditions of work facility. When a questionable labor practice of a company is reported in the press, the company's stock price can decrease. Therefore, a metric that measures a company's performance with respect to non-economic factors, such as child labor, when making investment decisions is useful in considering stock price value. However, a particular investor may believe certain factors are more important than other factors, and would therefore give greater weight to certain factors. For example, an investor may believe that child labor policies have a greater impact on stock performance than environmental responsibility. Thus, it is also quite useful to have a metric which takes into account the weighted importance of any given factor in accordance with that investor's performance model. The Pending Claims define an invention which provides

such a metric by quantitatively analyzing non-economic factors and their relative importance with respect to one or more companies and outputting a computed sustainability score.

5. Claim 1 of the Pending Claims is representative in reciting a "computer implemented rating system" which computes and outputs a "sustainability score defining a rating of the company incorporating the at least one non-economic factor." This score is suitable for reference or reliance by persons in the financial industry because it provides a point of reference or comparison. Thus, with reference to the above example, if the non-economic data used to computer the sustainability score includes child labor practice data, a company that employs unfavorable child labor practices will have a poor sustainability score, and this score can be referenced and/or relied on by an investor to avoid investing in the company.

6. The output sustainability score of each of the Pending Claims reflects a quantitative synthesis of non-economic data. As discussed, the sustainability score can be used as a reference to rate companies with respect to non-economic data, such as child labor practices. Moreover, by accepting user-input coefficients and "associating each of the . . . coefficient values with the respective data concerning at least one non-economic" the claimed invention provides a user with the ability to change the how certain non-economic factors are weighed in computing the sustainability score. This information and ability can be used in many ways by an investor. For example, an investor that believes a law will soon be passed that places a high tariff on imported products made using child labor can increase the weight of the coefficient associated with child labor. In a further example, a charitable foundation that promotes child welfare can heavily weigh child labor practices, so that companies with sub-standard child labor practices will be scored as less attractive investments.

7. The sustainability score output or generated by the Pending Claims is based on continuously changing financial information just like many tools in the financial industry do. The data (e.g., non-economic data) provided to the system may change over time, as does other information used in the financial industry. However, for a given set of data and any user-input coefficients, the score that is output is an objective calculation and is

repeatable by virtue of the formula being used. Furthermore, if a user's valuation model changes over time, the present invention enables a user to modify the coefficients representing that valuation model. For example, if the bill proposing a tariff on products made using child labor is defeated, a user can decrease the weight of the coefficient associated with child labor practices, because the user may believe such practices will not have as severe an impact on stock performance after the bill is defeated.

I declare further that statements made in this declaration of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing therefrom.

SIGNED: _____

NAME: Peter Ohnemus

TITLE: President & CEO ASSET 4 AG

DATE: 29. Sept. 2006

Claims as pending in U.S. Patent Application Serial No.: 10/708,441

FOR: SUSTAINABILITY RATINGS AND BENCHMARKING FOR LEGAL ENTITIES

1. (Currently Amended) In a computer-implemented rating system having access to a database populated with data concerning at least one non-economic factor for a company, a method comprising:

providing an interface capable of displaying at least a portion of the data;

enabling a user to input at least one coefficient value through the interface;

associating each said coefficient value with a respective data concerning the at least one non-economic factor;

computing a sustainability score using the at least one ~~of the inputted~~ coefficient value ~~values~~ and the data, the sustainability score utilizing the at least one non-economic factor in a formula that applies the associated coefficient value to the respective data concerning the at least one non-economic factor;

permitting the user to view the formula through the interface; and

outputting the sustainability score, the sustainability score defining a rating of the company which incorporates the at least one non-economic factor.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

storing the user-input coefficient value in an account associated with the user.

3. (Currently Amended) In a computer-implemented rating system having access to a database populated with data concerning at least one non-economic factor for multiple companies, each company belonging to an industry, a method comprising:

providing an interface capable of displaying at least a portion of the data and enabling the user to select at least one of the ~~companies and the one of the~~ industry and a company within the industry ~~industries~~;

accepting ~~permitting a user to input~~ at least one user-input coefficient value ~~values~~ through the interface;

associating each said coefficient value with a respective data concerning the at least one non-economic factor for a company;

computing a sustainability score using at least one ~~of~~ said ~~the inputted~~ coefficient value and the data concerning the selected one of the companies, the sustainability score utilizing the at least one non-economic factor in a formula that is viewable by the user through the interface; and

outputting the sustainability score, the sustainability score defining a rating of the industry or company within the industry incorporating the at least one non-economic factor.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein

the sustainability score for an industry is computed from data concerning non-economic factors of companies in the industry.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising

presenting the formula to the user through the interface.

6. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

subsequently receiving later data concerning at least one non-economic factor for a company; and

computing a subsequent sustainability score for the company using the later data.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

waiting to receive a verification flag respecting the later data prior to computing the subsequent sustainability score.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein

the later data is received from at least one of the public and the company.

9. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the data concerns non-economic factors for multiple companies,

the method further comprising:

defining a derivative index product comprising a selection of companies among the multiple companies,

pricing the derivative product; and

offering the derivative product for purchase and sale in a public market.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein

the later data is received as a response to a questionnaire.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

establishing a secure entity reporting channel, and

wherein the later data is received over the channel.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein

the sustainability score includes a plurality of individual scores corresponding to discrete sustainability criteria.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein

the coefficient value is used to compute at least one of the individual scores.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein

the sustainability score is computed by combining at least two of the individual scores, and

the coefficient value is used to affect how the individual scores are combined.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein

the discrete sustainability criteria include at least one of a social responsibility rating, an environmental responsibility rating, and a corporate governance rating.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein

the discrete sustainability criteria further include an economic rating.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

benchmarking the sustainability score against a reference score.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein

the data concerns non-economic factors for multiple governments,

the interface further enables the user to select one of the governments, and

computing uses the data concerning the selected one of the governments.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer for implementing a rating system, the computer having access to a database populated with data concerning at least one non-economic factor for a company, the computer comprising:

means for displaying at least a portion of the data and a formula that generates a sustainability score;

means for enabling a user to input at least one coefficient value;

means for associating each user-input coefficient value with a respective non-economic factor; and

a processor configured to compute the sustainability score using the formula, the formula mathematically applying each associated ~~provided with at least one of the~~ user-input ~~inputted~~ coefficient ~~values~~ value to ~~and~~ the respective non-economic factor ~~data~~,

wherein the displaying means outputs the sustainability score, the sustainability score defining a rating of the company incorporating the at least one non-economic factor.

20. (Original) The computer of claim 19, further comprising:

means for storing the user-input coefficient value in an account associated with the user.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer for implementing a rating system, the computer having access to a database populated with data concerning at least one non-economic factor for multiple companies, each company belonging to an industry, the computer comprising:

means for displaying at least a portion of the data and a formula that generates a sustainability score;

means for enabling a user to input at least one coefficient value;

means for and associating each user-input coefficient value with a respective non-economic factor;

the means for enabling the user further enables the user to select at least one of the industry and a company within the industry ~~one of the companies and one of the industries~~, and

a processor configured to compute the sustainability score using ~~the data concerning the selected one of the companies~~ the formula provided with at least one associated ~~of the inputted~~ coefficient value ~~values~~ and the respective non-economic data concerning the selected industry or company within the industry;

wherein the displaying means outputs the sustainability score, the sustainability score defining a rating of the company incorporating the at least one non-economic factor.

22. (Original) The computer of claim 21, wherein

the sustainability score for an industry is computed from data concerning non-economic factors of companies in the industry.

23 (Original) The computer of claim 21, wherein

a plurality of sustainability scores for respective companies is computed and compared.

24. (Original) The computer of claim 21, further comprising:

means for subsequently receiving later data concerning at least one non-economic factor for a company; and

means for computing a subsequent sustainability score for the company using the later data.

25. (Original) The computer of claim 24, further comprising:

means for waiting to receive a verification flag respecting the later data prior to computing the subsequent sustainability score.

26. (Original) The computer of claim 24, wherein
the later data is received from the public.

27. (Original) The computer of claim 24, wherein
the later data is received from the company.

28. (Original) The computer of claim 24, wherein
the later data is received as a response to a questionnaire.

29. (Original) The computer of claim 24, further comprising:
means for establishing a secure entity reporting channel, and
wherein the later data is received over the channel.

30. (Original) The computer of claim 19, wherein
the sustainability score includes a plurality of individual scores corresponding to discrete sustainability criteria.

31. (Original) The computer of claim 30, wherein
the coefficient value is used to compute at least one of the individual scores.

32. (Original) The computer of claim 30, wherein
the sustainability score is computed by combining at least two of the individual scores, and
the coefficient value is used to affect how the individual scores are combined.

33. (Original) The computer of claim 30, wherein
the discrete sustainability criteria include at least one of a social responsibility rating, an environmental responsibility rating, and a corporate governance rating.

34. (Original) The computer of claim 33, wherein

the discrete sustainability criteria further include an economic rating.

35. (Original) The computer of claim 19, further comprising:

means for benchmarking the sustainability score against a reference score.

36. (Original) The computer of claim 19, wherein

the data concerns non-economic factors for multiple governments,

the interface further enables the user to select one of the governments, and

the means for computing is adapted to use the data concerning the selected one of the governments.

37. (Currently Amended) A computer for implementing a rating system, the computer having access to a database populated with data concerning at least one non-economic factor, the computer comprising:

an interface configured to display at least a portion of the data, to enable input of at least one coefficient value, to associate each user-input coefficient value with a respective non-economic factor, and to display a formula useful in computing a sustainability score; and

a processor configured to compute the sustainability score using the formula in conjunction with any input coefficient values and the data,

wherein the interface is further capable of outputting the sustainability score, the sustainability score defining a rating of the company incorporating the at least one non-economic factor.

38. (Original) The computer of claim 37, further comprising:

a memory for storing the input coefficient values in an account associated with the user.

39. (Currently Amended) A computer for implementing a rating system, the computer having access to a database populated with data concerning at least one non-economic factor for multiple companies, each company belonging to an industry, the computer comprising:

an interface configured to display at least a portion of the data, to enable input of at least one coefficient value, to associate each user-input coefficient value with a respective non-economic factor, and to enable the user to select at least one of the industry and a company within the industry ~~one of the companies and one of the industries~~, and to display a formula useful in computing a sustainability score; and

a processor configured to compute the sustainability score using the formula in conjunction with any input coefficient values and the data concerning the selected industry or company within the industry ~~the selected one of the companies~~;

wherein the interface is further capable of outputting the sustainability score, the sustainability score defining a rating incorporating the at least one non-economic factor of the selected industry or company within the industry.

40. (Original) The computer of claim 39, wherein

the sustainability score for an industry is computed from data concerning non-economic factors of companies in the industry.

41. (Original) The computer of claim 39, wherein

a plurality of sustainability scores for respective companies is computed and compared.

42. (Original) The computer of claim 39, wherein

the interface is capable of receiving later data concerning at least one non-economic factor for a company; and

the processor is adapted to further compute a subsequent sustainability score for the company using the later data.

43. (Original) The computer of claim 42, wherein

the processor is adapted to further wait to receive a verification flag respecting the later data prior to computing the subsequent sustainability score.

44. (Original) The computer of claim 42, wherein
the later data is received from the public.

45. (Original) The computer of claim 42, wherein
the later data is received from the company.

46. (Original) The computer of claim 45, wherein
the later data is received as a response to a questionnaire.

47. (Original) The computer of claim 45, wherein
the interface is adapted to further establish a secure entity reporting channel, and
the later data is received over the channel.

48. (Original) The computer of claim 37, wherein
the sustainability score includes a plurality of individual scores corresponding to discrete sustainability criteria.

49. (Original) The computer of claim 48, wherein
the coefficient value is used to compute at least one of the individual scores.

50. (Original) The computer of claim 48, wherein
the sustainability score is computed by combining at least two of the individual scores, and
the coefficient value is used to affect how the individual scores are combined.

51. (Original) The computer of claim 48, wherein
the discrete sustainability criteria include at least one of a social responsibility rating, an environmental responsibility rating, and a corporate governance rating.

52. (Original) The computer of claim 51, wherein

the discrete sustainability criteria further include an economic rating.

53. (Original) The computer of claim 37, further comprising:

the processor is adapted to further benchmark the sustainability score against a reference score.

54. (Original) The computer of claim 37, wherein

the data concerns non-economic factors for multiple governments,

the interface further enables the user to select one of the governments, and

computing uses the data concerning the selected one of the governments.

55. (Cancelled)

56. (New) In a computer-implemented rating system having access to a database populated with data concerning at least one non-economic factor, the at least one non-economic factor including at least one of a social factor, an environmental factor, and a corporate governance factor, a method comprising:

providing an interface capable of displaying at least a portion of the data;

enabling a user to input at least one coefficient value through the interface;

associating each of the at least one user-input coefficient values with the data concerning a respective non-economic factor, each associated user-input coefficient representing a weighting of the respective non-economic factor;

computing a sustainability score using a formula configured to mathematically apply each associated user-input coefficient value to the data concerning the respective non-economic factor;

permitting the user to view the formula through the interface; and

outputting the sustainability score, the sustainability score defining a rating of the company which incorporates the at least one non-economic factor.